

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2007 Hill, P.J., et. al.
A Phase II Archeological Evaluation of Sites 18MO635 and 18MO639: Two Historic Sites Connected with the Stoney Springs Property in Montgomery County, Maryland.
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Research Firm/Institution:

Archeological Testing and Consulting, Inc.
12025 Remington Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Sites examined:

18MO635 18MO639
NRHP Eligible: ☒ NRHP Eligible: ☒
[Justification](#) [Justification](#)

Project Details:

	Project Justification:
Phase I	
Phase II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This report describes the results of a 2006 Phase II testing project at two sites (18MO635 and 18MO639) situated on the 724.33 acre Stoney Springs property in rural Montgomery County. The Stoney Springs property was to be developed into a new residential community with single family homes, new roads, and associated infrastructure. The archeological work was associated with a client application for a wetland permit with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of Environment.
Phase III	

MAC Accession: 2007.001

Project Objectives:

- Record the vertical and horizontal extent of artifact deposits at sites 18MO635 and 18MO639.
- Establish when each site was occupied and who occupied them prior to the 20th century.
- Determine the general socio-economic statuses of historic occupants at Sites 18MO635 and 18MO639.
- Determine the functions of each site and whether or not distinct activity areas can be isolated.
- Assess the integrity of both sites and whether or not intact features are present.
- Assess the stratigraphic integrity of each site.
- Evaluate the level of artifact preservation (particularly faunal materials) preservation exhibited at each site.
- Determine if sites 18MO635 and 18MO639 are significant archeological resources, if they have research value, and if they are eligible for listing on the NRHP.

Research Potential:

Despite the presence of the six intact cultural features, the excavations revealed that much of the area had, in fact, been impacted by a variety of activities associated with 20th century use of the site and the demolition of the structures. Only five of the twelve test units that were excavated exhibited moderate to good stratigraphic integrity, while the remaining seven units contained mixed strata and disturbed deposits. A draft version of the Phase II report noted that, "the stratigraphic integrity at site 18MO635 varied from poor to good depending on location...after carefully examining the soils and artifacts of the twelve test units excavated, it was concluded that some degree of disturbance was present over the entire site. Where such disturbance was minimal, stratigraphic integrity bordered on being good, and where it was measureable soil integrity was fair to poor." While it was clear that the Phase II investigation yielded important information regarding the age, function, affiliation, integrity, and history of the site, there was inadequate justification for the claim that the site was capable of addressing specific research questions at the data recovery level. For these reasons, MHT did not concur with the recommendation of eligibility for the site. MHT determined that 18MO635 lacked the required levels of integrity and research potential to justify its significance and does not meet the criteria for eligibility in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, further investigations of this site were not warranted for Section 106 purposes.

Based on the findings, Site 18MO635 was classified as a 19th to 20th century farmstead. Historic research suggests that this farmstead was owned and occupied by the Williams and Metzger families. These owners were middle-income, owned slaves, and farmed the surrounding land. Based on the lack of an intact historic landscape, a paucity of intact cultural features and a general absence of artifact-bearing soils with good stratigraphic integrity, Site 18MO639 was not thought to have research potential. The site should not be considered a significant archeological resource.